

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-07 AID-05
EB-07 IGA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /072 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:RKMCKEE:GN
APPROVED BY NEA/PAB:PWLANDE
NEA/INS:DKUX (SUBS)
S/P:RUNDELAND (SUBS)
PM:RMANTEL (SUBS)
-----202249Z 112984 /70
O 202202Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, PK, US

SUBJECT: ASSOCIATED PRESS STORY ON ARMS TRANSFER

1. AP WIRE MAY 20 CARRIED FOLLOWING STORY DATELINED WASHINGTON BY ARTHUR L. GAVSHON:QUOTE:

TWO U.S. NAVY DESTROYERS WERE BEING TRANSFERRED TO THE PAKISTANI NAVY THE DAY THAT PRIME MINISTER ZULFIKAR ALI BHUTTO ACCUSED THE UNITED STATES OF TRYING TO OVERTHROW HIS REGIME.

AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME THE GEARING-CLASS DESTROYERS SAILED FROM SEATTLE, AS PART OF A DEAL INVOLVING OTHER
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MILITARY EQUIPMENT, BHUTTO ACCUSED THE UNITED STATES OF FINANCING WHAT HE CALLED "A COLOSSAL CONSPIRACY" TO BRING DOWN HIS GOVERNMENT.

SINCE BHUTTO'S STERN ACTIONS, DIPLOMATS HERE SAY OTHER U.S. MILITARY EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN SENT TO THE PAKISTANI REGIME, INCLUDING AMMUNITION AND EQUIPMENT FOR A TANK

FACTORY.

THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT HAS OFFICIALLY PROTESTED THE TRANS-

FER OF THE TWO U.S. SHIPS TO THE BHUTTO GOVERNMENT AND WARNED THE STATE DEPARTMENT THAT THE SUPPLY OF ARMS TO PAKISTAN CAN ONLY CONTRIBUTE TO GREATER INSTABILITY THROUGHOUT THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT.

A U.S. NAVY SPOKESMAN SAID THURSDAY THE TRANSFER OF THE DESTROYERS FOLLOWED THROUGH ON A SALE APPROVED BY CONGRESS UNDER THE FORD ADMINISTRATION. THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE ADMINISTRATION CONFIRMED THE SALE ON FEB. 28.

"THERE WAS NO REASON TO CANCEL THE SALE IN THE LIGHT OF PAKISTAN'S LONG TERM DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS," ONE U.S. OFFICIAL SAID. EACH OF THE DESTROYERS -- WORLD WAR II TYPES FORMERLY NAMED THE WILTSIE AND THE EPPERSON -- COST DOLS 225,000, THE U.S. NAVY SPOKESMAN SAID. UNQUOTE.

2. DEPARTMENT HAD PREPARED FOLLOWING GUIDANCE FOR MAY 20 PRESS BRIEFING, BUT SUBJECT DID NOT ARISE: QUOTE:

Q. WHY DID THE USG TRANSFER TWO DESTROYERS TO PAKISTAN THE DAY AFTER BHUTTO CHARGED US WITH INTERFERING IN PAKISTAN POLITICS?

A. THIS WAS A LONG PLANNED TRANSFER AUTHORIZED BY ACT OF CONGRESS LAST YEAR. WE SAW NO REASON TO HOLD UP THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TRANSFER, WHICH WAS MADE IN THE CONTEXT OF PAKISTAN'S OVERALL DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS.

Q. IS THE U.S. TRANSFERRING AMMUNITION AND A TANK FACTORY TO PAKISTAN, AS STATED IN THE AP STORY?

A. NO EQUIPMENT FOR A TANK FACTORY IS BEING SHIPPED TO PAKISTAN. WE HAD, HOWEVER, EARLIER APPROVED THE SALE TO PAKISTAN OF ITEMS NEEDED TO RENOVATE TANKS, WITH THE WORK TO BE CARRIED OUT IN IRAN. THIS SALE IS PART OF A PROGRAM THAT BEGAN SEVERAL YEARS AGO.

SIMILARLY, THERE HAS BEEN AN ONGOING PROGRAM TO SELL ARTILLERY AMMUNITION TO PAKISTAN. THE SHIPMENTS MADE IN MAY ARE PART OF THE ORDER REVIEWED BY CONGRESS AND APPROVED BY THE ADMINISTRATION LAST FALL.

Q. ARE THERE OTHER ITEMS BEING PROVIDED TO PAKISTAN?

A. I DO NOT HAVE INFORMATION ON THIS BUT WILL LOOK INTO IT.

Q. HAS INDIA PROTESTED THE TRANSFER OF THE TWO DESTROYERS TO PAKISTAN?

A. WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED ANY PROTEST. UNQUOTE.

3. SHOULD STORY BE RAISED BY HOST GOVERNMENT OR LOCAL PRESS, YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO RESPOND ALONG LINES OF PARA 2, DIRECTING QUESTIONS ABOUT INDIAN OFFICIAL REACTION TO GOI OR INDIA EMBASSY. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY EQUIPMENT, MILITARY SALES, ANTIAMERICAN FEELING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: RKMCKEE:GN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770180-1043
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770533/aaaabckd.tel
Line Count: 128
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Litigation History:
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TAGS: MARR, PFOR, MASS, PK, (BHUTTO, ALI)
To: ISLAMABAD NEW DELHI
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6ffbc58c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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